

B.E.S.T 2010 : Rules and Entry Form

If you have any questions, please contact either:

- Ed Martin Tel: 07583 032595, e-mail: edwardmartin100@gmail.com or
- Evan Simpson Tel: 024 7632 0198, e-mail: me@evansimpson.co.uk

Format

There will be eight regionally-based groups, each comprising up to 16 players. Some groups may have more players than others, and the average rating of the players in each group will vary. The draw for groups will be seeded by rating.

As in 2009, invitations are sought from Northern Ireland/Ireland. Should a group prove viable the group winner will need to be prepared to travel to the mainland for the quarter final round and subsequent rounds if they get through. The quarter final involving the Irish winner could potentially be scheduled just before or after the BMSC if that is convenient.

The eight group winners will qualify for the quarter-finals of the BEST. The draw for the quarter-finals onwards will be random, and will take place in July/August, after the group finals have been completed. The final will take place on the weekend of October 30th / 31st, location to be confirmed. It is planned that move by move coverage of the Final will take place on the Internet Scrabble Club or other online facility. The first and second round matches will be best of 7 games, the third round best of 9, and the zone final will be best of 11. The quarter-finals will be best of 15 games; the semi-finals best of 17 games, and the final best of 19 games.

Round completion dates

Closing date for entries	March 21 st	Group finals completed	August 1 st
Round 1 completed	April 25 th	Quarter-finals completed	September 5 th
Round 2 completed	May 30 th	Semi-finals completed	October 3 rd
Round 3 completed	June 27 th	Final	October 23 rd /24 th

If a group has only two rounds prior to the group final, rounds 2 and 3 dates should be used for the first two rounds. In exceptional circumstances, and with the organisers' permission, these dates can be extended, but it is strongly recommended that they are kept to. If it turns out to be impossible for both players to agree on a date for their match, the game will be awarded to whichever player was willing to play on the closing date for the round.

Adjudications

An independent adjudicator should be present for each match. Players may find it helpful to arrange two or more group matches on the same day, so that a single adjudicator can cover more than one game. Alternatively, self-adjudication can be used provided both parties agree beforehand and an independent arbiter is available at the end of a phone line for any rules queries.

Prize money:

The prize fund is dependent on the number of entries. In 2009, based on 80 entries, the prize fund was:

- Ratings prize in each group: £25
- Losing quarter-finalist £50
- Losing semi-finalist £125
- Runner-up £250
- Winner £500

The ratings prize in each group is awarded to the player who exceeds their start-of-tournament rating by the greatest amount. It is eligible only to players with ratings of 170 and under, and cannot be won by the zone winner.

Notes: The prizes are funded from entry money. 60p per player per match is deducted as ratings levy, and approximately £50 has been retained to cover expenses and allow for cancellations. Any unused funds will be added to the prize fund for the final. If players withdraw from the tournament without playing their matches, they risk forfeiting any prize money for which they are eligible; any forfeited money would be added to the prize fund for the final.

Entering and paying for BEST 2010

The entry fee for each round in the BEST is £10, or €11 for those entering from Republic of Ireland. To enter, please send a cheque payable to 'BEST' to Ed Martin at 59 Milton Rd, London, SW14 8JP, along with your home address, email address and phone number. If you win in Round 1, you pay a further £10 to take part in Round 2; and so on. So every time you win a match send a cheque for £10 made out to "BEST" to Ed at the address above.

Note: If you fail to pay promptly, you will be contacted and given a final deadline for payment. Failure to pay by this deadline will result in expulsion from the tournament.

Exceptions to standard ABSP Game Rules:

- **Challenges:** Five point penalty challenge will be used for all games. Where a challenge is unsuccessful there will be a penalty of five points per word which is added on to the move score.
- **Concessions:** A player can offer to concede a game at any point, although their opponent is not obliged to accept the concession. The score at the moment of concession should be recorded (see "Deciding game" below).
- **Deciding game:** If a match requires a deciding game (for example, if a 1st round match is tied at 3-3), the player who is ahead on spread starts in the final game. If the spreads are level, the players will draw for start.
- **Tied match:** If a match is tied on games (for example 3.5 each in Round 1), the player who is ahead on spread wins the match.

Reporting results

Please send the results of matches, including final match score, to Ed Martin at 59 Milton Rd, London SW14 8JP, or by e-mail to edwardmartin100@gmail.com.

Name:..... Address:.....
Tel .No:.....
E-mail address:.....
Scrabble Club:..... Postcode:.....
Rating:.....:.....SAE? (if no email address).....

This tournament is organised under the auspices of the BEST Scrabble Club, and has been approved for ABSP rating. Membership of the ABSP for 2010 costs £15. For more information contact the Membership Secretary Anne Ramsay at 8 Glen Clova Place, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 6UL.

The organisers reserve the right to refuse entries and to adjust the regional groupings. The decision of the organisers in any matter is final. Entry to the tournament constitutes acceptance of these rules.

SCRABBLE® is a registered trademark of J.W.Spear & Sons Ltd., Maidenhead SL6 4UB, England, under licence from Mattel Europa BV, a subsidiary of Mattel Inc, ©Mattel 2007